

SUBCABINET ON SENIOR VITAL LIVING

Meeting Summary Notes

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Subcabinet Members

Adams, Bruce
Ahluwalia, Uma
Albornoz, Gabriel
Binder, Elaine Kotell
Emanuel, Steve
Lacefield, Patrick
Matthews, Catherine
Vaughan-Prather, Judith

Staff

Anderson, Mary
Barrow, Joy
Biggins, Carolyn
Crisostomo, Chuck
Goodwin, Bill
Heyman, Austin
Huggins, Gloria
Kenney, John

King, Melissa
Korona, Luann
Marcelo, Ruby
Smith, Charles
Tillery, Diane
Vines, Ralph

Guests

Hughes, Sandra
Marks, Leslie
Kauffman, Charles
Woodall, Barbara

Co-chair Gabe Albornoz convened the meeting with introductions. Gabe also announced that Natalie Cantor, Director of the Mid-County Regional Service Center would be retiring.

Final approved FY12 budget for services and programs to services discussion:

Department of Recreation (DOR): Gabe reported that the DORs' budget was reduced fewer than 5% and lost two positions. No recreations facilities were closed and there were no reductions in the hours of service. The Maryland Senior Olympics was discontinued. The program was brought from Baltimore three years ago and there were 2,000 participants (majority from Montgomery County). Due to reductions in staff, the program could not be supported at the same level. The good news is that the program will return to Baltimore.

Public Information Office (PIO): Patrick Lacefield reported that the PIO budget was reduced by 4% but the office maintained staff, cable and graphics programs. The reductions across the county have increased the PIO workload.

Commission for Women (CFW): Judith Vaughan-Prather shared that the counseling center will close as of July 1. The CFW budget was limited to maintain Judith's position only and she will join the Office of Community Engagement cluster. The annual Legislative Briefing event is the only event that CFW will have to provide services to senior women.

Regional Services Centers (RSC). Catherine Matthews reported that the five RSCs would join the Office of Community Engagement cluster. The RSC will operate separate offices but will share administrative support staff and work closer together. The RSC will continue to work with the communities but will work differently and prioritized issues.

Department of Technology Services (DTS): Steven Emanuel reported that the DTS budget was cut a net of 4%. However, the department won a grant of \$13 million that will allow the county to reduce broadband data connectivity and make other needed improvements in the computer infrastructure. The county will also move to mobile technology by the use if iPads, Netbooks, and WiFi.

Office of Consumer Protection (OCP): Ralph Vines shared that there were no service cuts to program serving the senior populations. The overall reductions to OCP were 3%.

Police Department: Diane Tillery reported that the police force was reduced from 1,152 to 1,149 officers. The department lost two victim assistance workers (reducing the number from 6-4). It was proposed to close the 2nd and 6th district at 12 midnight, but those districts will continue to operated 24 hours.

Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA): There were no service cuts for FY12 budget. There was an 11% cut in Federal funding for the creations of senior housing.

Office of Community Partnership: Bruce Adams reported that Austin Heyman's Senior Fellow position would continue. Also, the Office on Community Engagement cluster will continue to work on the Aging in Place initiative started by Ken Hartman. Bruce announced that there is currently a Senior Fellow position open for a 55+ candidate that can work 1 day a week. The position will focus on civic engagement in the senior community.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): Jay Kenney reported that there was a reduction of 2.5% with Aging and Disability's budget cut less than 2%. A case management contracts with Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) was eliminated resulting in a \$29,000 savings. The Korean American Senior Association Chore Program was eliminated saving the county \$25,000. The residents affected by the reduction of the three contracts can seek services through the County. The In-home Aide Services program had a restoration of \$100,000. Community grants of \$231,000 will help to provide an array of services to seniors.

Department of Transportation (DOT): Carolyn Biggins reported that there were no large RideOn service cuts. Seniors will continue to receive free service on RideOn during midday hours. Starting July 1, the Call N' Ride second coupon book will cost \$5 more and the monthly RideOn pass will increase.

Senior Nutrition Program: Gabe wanted to take this opportunity to express his appreciation to staff in DHHS/Aging & Disability Services regarding recent efforts to preserve the senior nutrition program. The contractor providing home-delivered meals for seniors in DC, Maryland and Prince George's counties gave 72-hour notice the services would discontinue because the agency was filing for bankruptcy. The notice was sent on a Friday afternoon. Melanie Polk of the Senior Nutrition Program worked closely with Jay, Uma and Brian Wilbon, DHHS Chief Operating Officer, over the weekend to secure an emergency contract with Central Maryland Meals on Wheels (MOW). There were no interruption in home-delivered meals services for Montgomery County seniors and the seniors report that they liked the meals from MOW better than the original contractor.

Review of Proposed Workgroup Measures:

Melissa King of CountyStat stated that proposed outcomes/outputs met the guidelines; however she did not feel that CountyStat would ask for a meeting with the Sr. Sub-Cabinet unless the Sub-Cabinet took the initiative to request such a meeting. Melissa also announced that Ruby Marcelo would now be providing CountyStat support to the Senior Subcabinet.

The following are some of the recommendations to help improve measures and/or objectives:

- Clearly articulate the purpose of the Senior Sub-Cabinet;
- Have each workgroup provide language that states their specific goals/mission and how their measures relate;
- Where necessary, collect baseline data for measures;
- Determine source of data (how do we quantify and qualify the data)
- Provide suggestions prior to next meeting about possible integrated effort that Sub-Cabinet can support and engage around (example: fall prevention)

Diane Tillery shared a survey produced by Fire and Rescue Services, Office of Consumer Protection and the Police Department to gather information from seniors regarding safety services. The survey will be distributed to seniors countywide and police department staff will enter the data.

Advocates requested stronger measures, and that such measures be population based and used to determine success of efforts of group. Charles Smith cautioned that there are pragmatic limitations on both the ability to measure population level outcomes with sufficient precision to be accurate/valid, and that problems that have a relatively low incidence rate in the population (such as serious injury or death from falls) are extremely difficult to impact without a huge infusion of resources; and thus pilot programs or targeted interventions can easily be effective but produce "false negatives" when measured by population level metrics (i.e., population metrics can give false and misleading representation that the program is not working).

Roundtable Discussion and Updates:

- Chamber of Commerce: The Senior population is a huge demographic economic opportunity for businesses. Arizona and Florida's chambers of commerce create economics around the senior population. In the late summer or early fall, we will have a conversation about what it takes to mirror that approach in Montgomery County.

- Ken Hartman is working with Asbury Methodist to broaden the village concept.
- Posting Meeting Summaries: Elaine Binder reported that only some of the workgroups are posting their summaries on the Senior Site. It was determined that many of the workgroups are not meeting regularly and those that are meeting are not taking formal meeting minutes. The Senior Subcabinet full meeting summary notes will be posted on the website
- Austin Heyman stated that November will be the third anniversary of the Senior Summit and it would be beneficial to have an annual report. It was decided that the annual report would be added to the next agenda for the formation of a committee to determine when the report would be produced. The workgroups would be asked to provide bullets of accomplishments.
- Parks Department will focus on using unused land as community gardens.
- June 15 is Elder Abuse Awareness Day and Asbury Methodist will be having an event this afternoon.
- July 4 a Germantown, Mid-County and Baltimore orchestra will be performing in Germantown.
- There will be 65 Delegates joining the County Executive on a visit to El Salvador with the Sister City Program the last week in July.
- Elaine Binder reported that the Commission on Aging chose the topics of Housing and Mental Health for their Summer Studies.
- Due to the changes in the demographic in the county, Betty Lam, Chief of DHHS Office of Community Affairs, Bruce Adams and others meet to look at senior diversity.
- Carolyn Biggins reported that the Call N' Ride program is moving from paper tickets to electronic swipe cards.
- The Senior's Today program tapped today covered demographics of aging, the Park's Department and Assistive Technology. The program will air in July.

Next meeting will be Monday, September 12 at 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Avenue.